

REMARKS

1. The Applicant has carefully considered the official communication dated February 4, 2003. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment and the following remarks are fully responsive to the official communication.
2. The claims have been amended in light of the official communication. It is submitted that no new matter has been added as a result of the amendment.
3. The Examiner has rejected claims 1 to 3 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Silverbrook.
4. Claim 1 has been amended to emphasize the fact that the method includes the step of depositing a resistive heating material and a thermal expansion material on the wafer and etching this material to form a thermo-electrical actuator of a micro-electromechanical ink ejection mechanism.
5. It is respectfully submitted that Silverbrook does not disclose such a method. Rather, Silverbrook discloses printing heads that utilize electrostatic attraction towards the print medium. It follows that claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by Silverbrook. The remaining claims are dependent on claim 1 and this submission therefore extends to those claims as well.
6. The Examiner has rejected claims 1 to 3 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wise. In column 12 of Wise, there is disclosed a thermal ink ejection mechanism that heats the ink to achieve ejection. It is respectfully submitted that such a mechanism cannot be regarded as a micro-electromechanical system that includes a thermo-electrical actuator. It follows that claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by Wise. The remaining claims are dependent on claim 1 and this submission therefore extends to those claims as well.
7. The Examiner has rejected claims 1 to 5 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wise in view of Silverbrook. The Examiner has based this ground on the contention that Wise anticipates claim 1. However, as set out above, it is the Applicant's submission that Wise does not anticipate claim 1, as amended. It follows that Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as amended, is not obvious over Wise in view of Silverbrook.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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